

June 6, 2018

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker of the House
H-232, The Capitol
United States Congress
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Democratic Leader
H-204, The Capitol
United States Congress
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Majority Leader
H-107, The Capitol
United States Congress
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Steny Hoyer
Democratic Whip
1705 Longworth House Office Building
United States Congress
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Leaders Ryan, Pelosi, McCarthy and Hoyer,

The undersigned organizations thank you for your leadership and the time and resources this Congress has dedicated to turning the tide on the current opioid overdose epidemic.

To prevent future crises related to substance misuse and addiction, legislative solutions that require a new approach to the delivery of substance use prevention, addiction treatment, and recovery support services will be necessary. With 174 Americans dying from drug overdose each day, and those lives still at risk, additional strategies are needed to combat this public health emergency.

As part of a comprehensive approach to addressing the opioid overdose epidemic, it is essential that access to evidence-based addiction treatment services be increased. As the House prepares to consider legislation to address the opioid overdose epidemic, we ask that the legislative package include the following policies:

- Establish opioid treatment programs (OTPs), as certified and accredited by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), as covered Medicare providers;
- Provide appropriate reimbursement in Medicare to enable OTPs to provide the medications and necessary wraparound services related to the treatment of substance use disorder in OTPs;
- Require the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to work with stakeholders in the addiction medicine field to design a payment bundle and any subsequent additional services that may be added to the list of covered services through the rulemaking process;
- Direct the Secretary of HHS to work judiciously to promulgate any necessary regulations regarding the above;
- Make permanent the authorization that allows nurse practitioners and physician assistants to treat patients with buprenorphine;

- Allow practitioners who hold “additional credentialing” or who provide medication-assisted treatment in a “qualified practice setting” to treat up to 100¹ patients with buprenorphine in year one; and
- Codify the Final Rule issued by the Department of Health and Human Services in July 2016 that raised the DATA 2000 patient limit for certain physicians to 275 patients (while preserving the ability of the HHS Secretary to adjust the patient limit).

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. We urge Congress to support these necessary policies to combat the opioid overdose epidemic, and in turn, save lives.

Sincerely,

1. Academy of Integrative Pain Management
2. Advocates for Opioid Recovery
3. AIDS United
4. Alabama Society of Addiction Medicine
5. American Academy of PAs
6. American Art Therapy Association
7. American Association for Psychoanalysis in Clinical Social Work
8. American Association of Colleges of Nursing
9. American Association of Nurse Practitioners (AANP)
10. American College of Medical Toxicology
11. American College of Osteopathic Emergency Physicians
12. American Foundation for Suicide Prevention/SPAN USA
13. American Medical Student Association
14. American Nurses Association
15. American Pain Society
16. American Psychological Association
17. American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM)
18. amfAR
19. Arizona Society of Addiction Medicine
20. Arkansas Society of Addiction Medicine
21. Association for Ambulatory Behavioral Healthcare
22. Association for Behavioral Health and Wellness
23. Association for Medical Education and Research in Substance Abuse (AMERSA)
24. CADA of Northwest Louisiana
25. California Society of Addiction Medicine
26. Campaign for Trauma-Informed Policy and Practice
27. Clinical Social Work Association
28. Chicago Recovery Alliance
29. Colorado Society of Addiction Medicine
30. Connecticut Certification Board
31. Connecticut Society of Addiction Medicine

32. Faces & Voices of Recovery
33. Facing Addiction with NCADD
34. FED UP! Coalition
35. Florida Society of Addiction Medicine
36. Friends Research Institute
37. Georgia Society of Addiction Medicine
38. Gerontological Advanced Practice Nurses Association (GAPNA)
39. Harm Reduction Coalition
40. Hawaii Society of Addiction Medicine
41. Indiana Society of Addiction Medicine
42. International Nurses Society on Addictions (IntNSA)
43. Kentucky Society of Addiction Medicine
44. Louisiana Society of Addiction Medicine
45. Maryland-DC Society of Addiction Medicine
46. Mental Health America
47. Michigan Society of Addiction Medicine
48. Midwest Society of Addiction Medicine (representing Missouri, Kansas, and Nebraska)
49. National Association For Children of Addiction
50. National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists
51. National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health (NPWH)
52. National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
53. National Council for Behavioral Health
54. National Health Care for the Homeless Council
55. National Health Law Program
56. National League for Nursing
57. National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties
58. National Safety Council
59. Nevada Society of Addiction Medicine
60. New Jersey Society of Addiction Medicine
61. New Mexico Society of Addiction Medicine
62. A New PATH (Parents for Addiction Treatment & Healing)
63. New York Society of Addiction Medicine
64. North Carolina Society of Addiction Medicine
65. Northern New England American Society of Addiction Medicine (representing Vermont, New Hampshire & Maine)
66. Ohio Society of Addiction Medicine
67. Oklahoma Society of Addiction Medicine
68. Oregon Society of Addiction Medicine
69. Pennsylvania Society of Addiction Medicine
70. The Pew Charitable Trusts
71. Physicians for Responsible Opioid Prescribing (PROP)
72. Prevention Point Pittsburgh

73. Project Lazarus
74. SAM (Smart Approaches to Marijuana)
75. Shatterproof
76. Student Coalition on Addiction
77. South Carolina Society of Addiction Medicine
78. Suncoast Harm Reduction Project
79. Tennessee Society of Addiction Medicine
80. Texas Society of Addiction Medicine
81. Treatment Communities of America
82. Virginia Society of Addiction Medicine
83. Washington Society of Addiction Medicine
84. West Virginia Society of Addiction Medicine
85. Young People in Recovery

CC:

The Honorable Pete Sessions
The Honorable Jim McGovern
The Honorable Greg Walden
The Honorable Frank Pallone
The Honorable Michael Burgess
The Honorable Gene Green
The Honorable Kevin Brady
The Honorable Richard Neal
The Honorable Peter Roskam
The Honorable Sander Levin

¹ Currently, these practitioners may treat up to 30 such patients in year one.